INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

84

CONFIDENTIAL

Action
NEA
Info
SS
G
SP
SAH
EUR
P
USIA
NSC
INR
CIA
NSA
DOD
NIC
AID
OPR

NNNNVV GMA709ATA081
PP RUEHCR
DE RUQMAT 213A 1961740
ZNY CCCCC
P R 151720Z ZEA
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 68
INFO RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS 11
RUFRCR/USDOCOSOUTH
RUQMGU/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 11
RUQVHN/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 14
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L JULY 15

PARIS FOR BURNS, JAMES

USDOCOSOUTH FOR BURRIS

10597

1965 JUL 15 PM 3 08

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY ug DATE 6 MAY 1982
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

KING'S POLITICAL ADVISOR HOIDAS RETURNED FROM CORFU LAST NIGHT CARRYING MESSAGE THAT KING WILL RECEIVE PRIMIN AT ATHENS ROYAL PALACE AT 7:00 THIS EVENING FOR WHAT ALL OBSERVERS CONSIDER WILL BE CRUCIAL CONFRONTATION.

RSR

OMINOUS STAGE FOR MEETING WAS SET LATE LAST NIGHT BY STATEMENT OF "AUTHORITATIVE" GOVERNMENT SOURCE THAT, SINCE PRIMIN HAS MADE ISSUE OF HIS ASSUMING DEFMIN PORTFOLIO PERSONALLY, HE CANNOT ACCEPT ANY OTHER SOLUTION, THAT HIS

PAGE 2 RUQMAT 213A C O N F I D E N T I A L
COURSE IS "IRREVERSIBLE" AND THAT IT CONSIDERS IT "MATTER OF DEFENDING HONOR OF DEMOCRACY." STATEMENT ALSO TERMS "GROUNDLESS" ALLEGATION THAT PRIMIN WANTS TO TAKE OVER DEFMIN TO HUSH UP "ASPIDA" ISSUE.

Declassified by RUQM

REPRESENTATIVES OF OVER 30 TRADE UNION, STUDENT, CULTURAL AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DECIDED YESTERDAY TO HOLD POPULAR GATHERING TOMORROW NIGHT AT CENTRAL SQUARE IN ATHENS. ALTHOUGH DECISION CAME ON INITIATIVE GREEK LABOR CONFEDERATION (GSEE), REAL ORGANIZERS AND SUPPORTERS ARE EXTREME LEFTISTS. IDEA OF HOLDING THIS DEMONSTRATION ALSO HAD STRONG BACKING OF ANDREAS PAPANDREOU. WHETHER IT IS HELD OR NOT DEPENDS MUCH ON OUTCOME OF TODAY'S KING-PRIMIN MEETING. PLAN TO STAGE GATHERING CARRIES OBVIOUS WARNING

CONFIDENTIAL

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

AND THREAT TO KING. INCREASING POLITICAL TENSION AND ANXIETY ALSO REFLECTED IN SALE OF 72,000 GOLD SOVEREIGNS TODAY IN COMPARISON TO NORMAL DAILY SALES LESS THAN 5,000.

COMMENT: WE HAVE LEARNED THAT FOLLOWING PRIMIN'S "IRREVERSIBLE" STATEMENT LAST NIGHT, NUMBER OF MINISTERS, INCLUDING STEPHANOPOULOS, TSIRIMOKOS, AND PAPASPYROU, VISITED PRIMIN AT HIS KASTRI HOME AND PLEADED WITH HIM NOT TO INSIST ON ASSUMING DEFMIN PORTFOLIO

PAGE 3 RUQMAT 213A C O N F I D E N T I A L
PERSONALLY AND TO AVOID RIFT WITH KING BY TRYING TO FIND A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SUCCESSOR TO GAROUFALIAS. PRIMIN, HOWEVER, REMAINED OBSTINATE, ARGUING BY SOME STRANGE LOGIC THAT HE WAS DETERMINED TO TAKE OVER DEFMIN BECAUSE IT WAS QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE. ALSO, HE REPORTEDLY REFUSED STEPHANOPOULOS' PLEA TO CALL CABINET MEETING TODAY TO DISCUSS ISSUE.

WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED URGENT, LAST-MINUTE EFFORTS TO AVERT SHOWDOWN ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY COSTOPOULOS, STEPHANOPOULOS AND OTHERS, AND THAT THESE EFFORTS INCLUDE COMPROMISE FORMULA BY WHICH PRIMIN WOULD TAKE GAROUFALIAS' PLACE FOR SPECIFIC PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK AFTER WHICH INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD BE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH KING AND PRIMIN WOULD BECOME DEFMIN. THIS IDEA HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN COOLY RECEIVED BY BOTH PRIMIN AND BY KING.

IF COMPROMISE FORMULA CANNOT BE FOUND TO RESOLVE PROBLEM OF DEFMIN, PAPANDREOU CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESIGN PREMIERSHIP.

GP-3. ANSCHUETZ